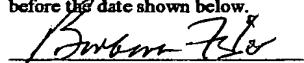


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Barbara Fisher

Date: 7 December 2004

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT International Application of)
HOEK, Arend, et al.)
Int. Appln No.: PCT/EP03/06114)
Intl. Filing Date: 6 June 2003)
SHAPED CATALYST PARTICLES FOR)
HYDROCARBON SYNTHESIS) 7 December 2004

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box PCT (DO/EO/US)
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Prior to taking up the case for examination, please amend the application as follows: